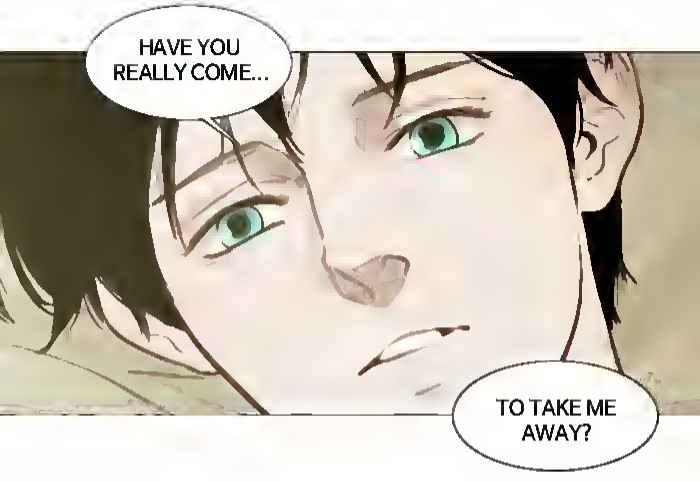
WINTER.

WINTER.

HUBERT.
YOU WERE RIGHT.
I SHOULD HAVE SUSPECTED EVERY-

YOU TOO...

A SUSPICION
THAT I MIGHT DRAG YOU
BACK TO THAT TERRIBLE
PLACE AGAIN.


HAVE YOU REALLY COME...
TO TAKE ME AWAY?

W-WHY?
WHY, HUBERT?
WINTER, CALM DOWN.
WHY..?!

WE'RE TRYING TO HELP YOU.
HELP ME?

IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL 'HELP' BY SPYING ON ME AND WATCHING ME?
THIS IS JUST LIKE BEFORE.
IT'S JUST LIKE WHEN I WAS TRAPPED IN THAT LITTLE ROOM!

I TRUSTED YOU ALL.
HOW COULD YOU...?

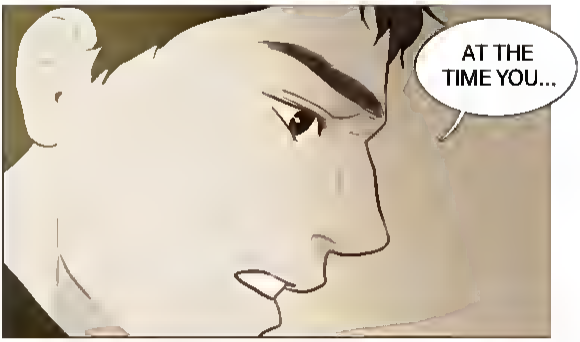
I HATE YOU ALL SO MUCH EVEN MORE,... I'M TERRIFIED OF YOU...!

YOU TOLD ME, HUBERT, NOT TO TRUST ANYONE, NOT EVEN YOU.
NOW I REALLY CAN'T TRUST YOU.

NO. YOU CAN TRUST ME NOW. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DOUBT ME.
THINK ABOUT WHAT LARRY AND SMITH HAVE DONE FOR YOU THIS WHOLE TIME.

WE DIDN T THINK OF YOU AS A TEST SUBJECT AT ALL.
WE THOUGHT OF YOU AS A LIVING PERSON. AND THAT S WHY WE RE TRYING TO HELP YOU NOW.

...THEN WHY
DID YOU TRICK ME?
IF YOU HAD TOLD ME
FROM THE START-


AT THE TIME YOU...

YOU...

YOU WEREN T
ALIVE

WE'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE YOU BACK TO THE LAB.

SO WINTER,
TRUST US.
PLEASE...!

THEN TELL ME EVERYTHING.
DON'T HIDE ANYTHING.

...ACTUALLY.

YOU BEING HERE ITSELF WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE EXPERIMENT.

SMITH AND LARRY MOVED HERE TWO YEARS BEFORE YOU GOT HERE AND HAVE LIVED AS JANE'S NEIGHBORS.

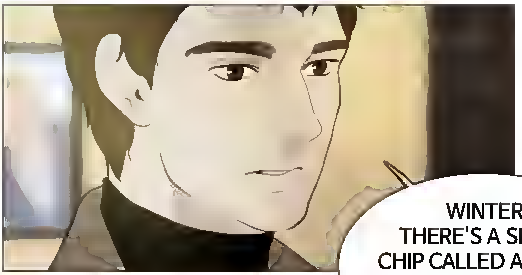
DOES THAT MEAN JANE...

NO. JANE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING.
SHE THINKS SHE JUST MET YOU BY CHANCE.
...SO?

...SINCE THE EXPERIMENT IS STILL ONGOING, YOU'RE TIED TO THE LAB.
AND WE'RE TRYING TO BREAK YOU AWAY FROM THE LAB.
EXACTLY. WE EVEN MADE AN ID CARD FOR YOU TODAY. YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE!

IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO TRUST US NO MATTER WHAT WE SAY RIGHT NOW. BUT WE REALLY...
WHAT SHOULD I SAY FOR HIM TO BELIEVE US?

HEY, SIR. SINCE THINGS HAVE ALREADY TURNED OUT THIS WAY, WE HAVE THAT 'SEED' THAT WE GOT IN THE SUBWAY BEFORE.
WHAT ABOUT THAT...?


WINTER.
THERE'S A SMALL CHIP CALLED A 'SEED' PLANTED IN THE BACK OF YOUR NECK.

THROUGH THAT CHIP, DIFFERENT DATA LIKE CHANGES IN YOUR BODY ARE SENT TO THE LABORATORY.

IN ORDER FOR YOU TO GET AWAY COMPLETELY FROM THE LAB, WE HAVE TO EITHER TURN IT OFF OR GET RID OF IT.

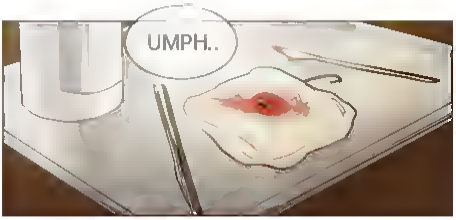
WE WERE GOING TO TAKE IT OUT WITHOUT YOU KNOWING. BUT WITH THINGS LIKE THIS NOW, WE HAD BETTER JUST TAKE IT OUT NOW.
THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TRUST US.
CAN WE TAKE IT OUT?

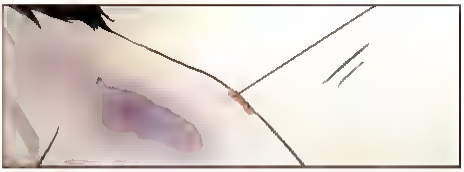
...WILL IT HURT?

WE'LL GIVE YOU ANAESTHETIC, SO IT'LL BE OKAY.

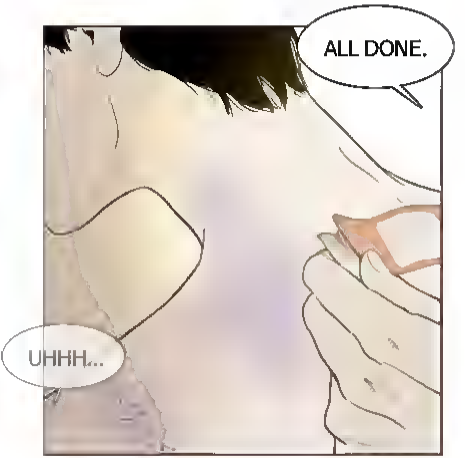
I'LL DO IT.

Winter Woods


UMPH..



UGGHH...


ALL DONE.
UHHH...

BUT HUBERT.
YEAH?

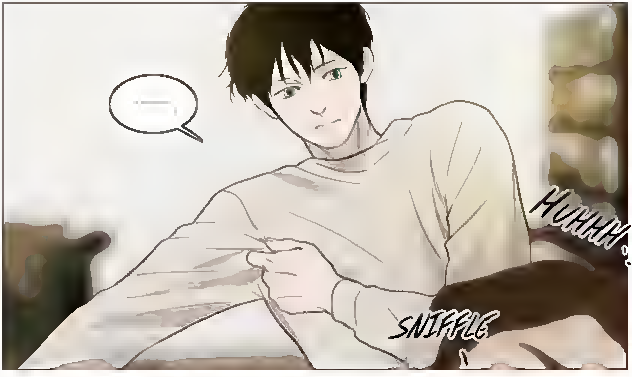
WHY DID YOU PUT THE SEED IN SMITH?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD HURTLESS BY PUTTING IT IN MY BUM UHHH
IF THE SIGNAL FROM THE 'SEED' INSIDE YOU SUDDENLY STOPS, THEY WOULD NOTICE AT THE LAB.

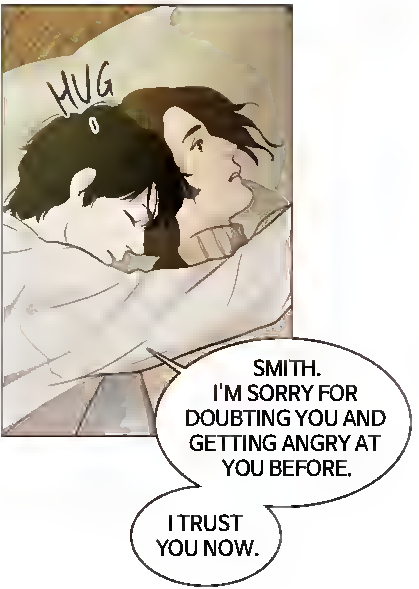
SO I PUT IT IN SMITH INSTEAD OF YOU.
AAAHHH!!
SORRY, I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH ANAESTHETIC
POKE

ANYWAY,
THE STITCHES WILL
DISSOLVE ON THEIR OWN
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO
WORRY ABOUT THEM.
TOMORROW,
I'LL GIVE SMITH SOME
PAINKILLERS TO GIVE YOU,
SO TAKE THEM WHENEVER
YOU FEEL PAIN...
SMITH...

AND THIS BRUISE... NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS. I'LL FIX IT FOR YOU.
OKAY?
OKAY, HUBERT. THANK YOU.

AH, AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
MAKE SURE JANE AND ROY DON'T FIND OUT ABOUT THIS UNTIL YOUR WOUND HEALS
WOO
WOO


HUHHH...
SNIFFLE


HUG
SMITH.
I'M SORRY FOR DOUBTING YOU AND GETTING ANGRY AT YOU BEFORE.
I TRUST YOU NOW.

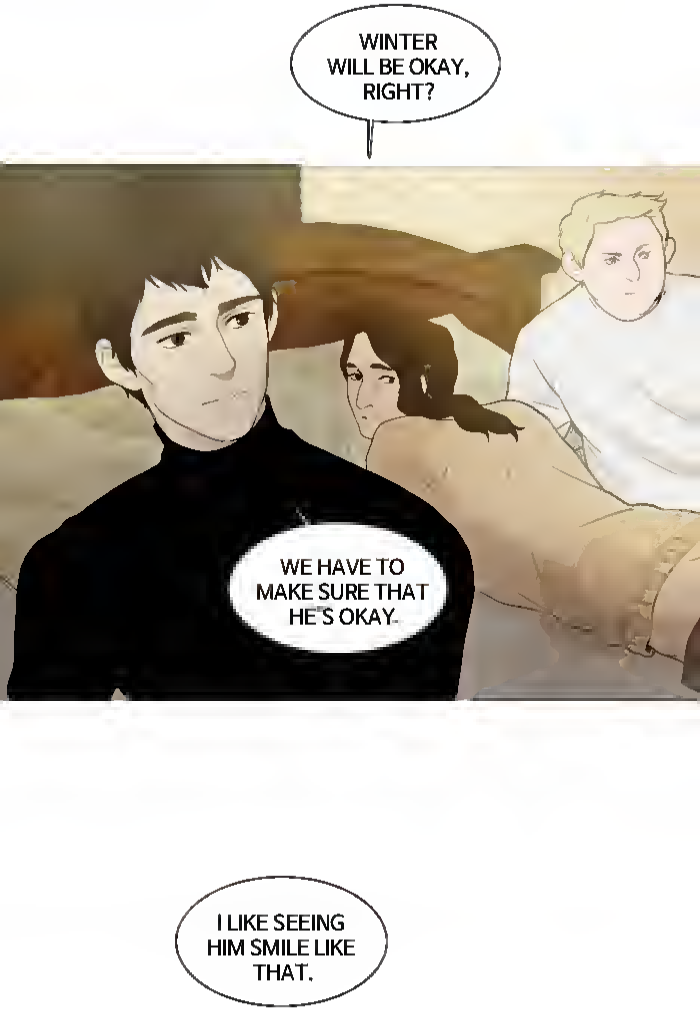
IT'S OKAY. I SHOULD BE SORRY.
ACTUALLY, UNLIKE HUBERT, I DIDN'T TREAT YOU LIKE A PERSON FROM THE START.
SNIFFLE
IT WAS ONLY LATER THAT I NOTICED YOU WERE GRADUALLY CHANGING.

STILL, THANK YOU.
YOU TOO, LARRY.
AHEM.

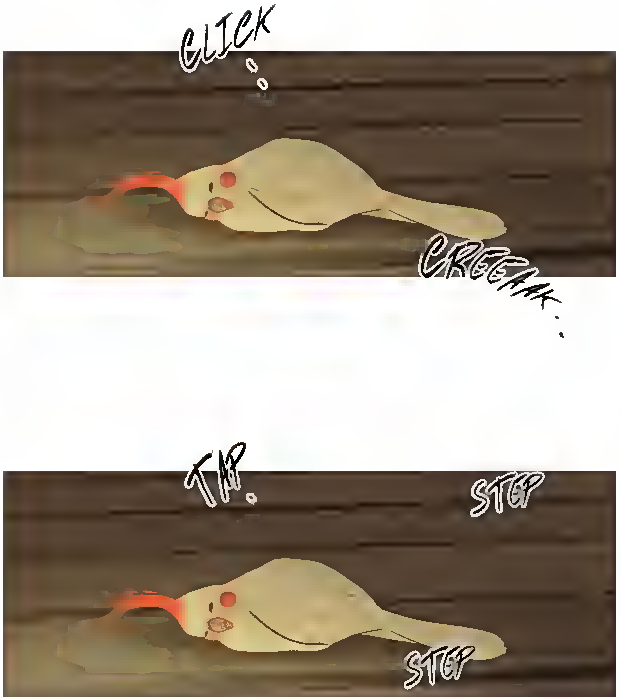
I'LL GET GOING.
GO AND GET SOME REST.

STEP
STEP

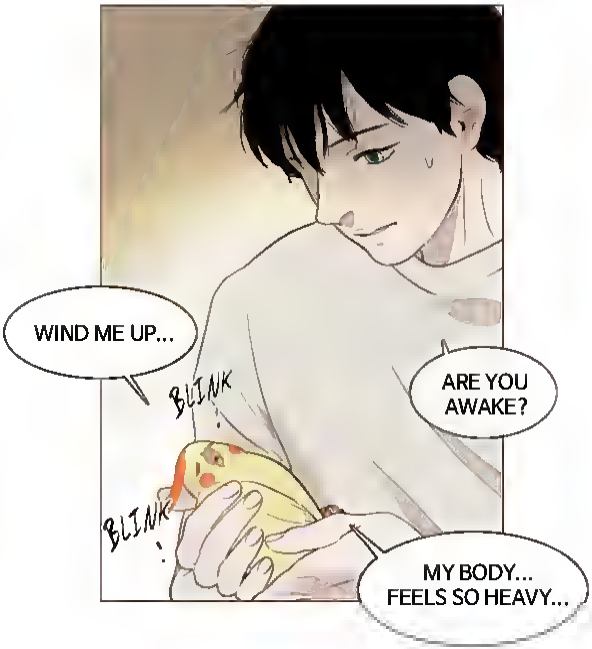
TAP


WINTER WILL BE OKAY, RIGHT?
WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT HE'S OKAY.
I LIKE SEEING HIM SMILE LIKE THAT.

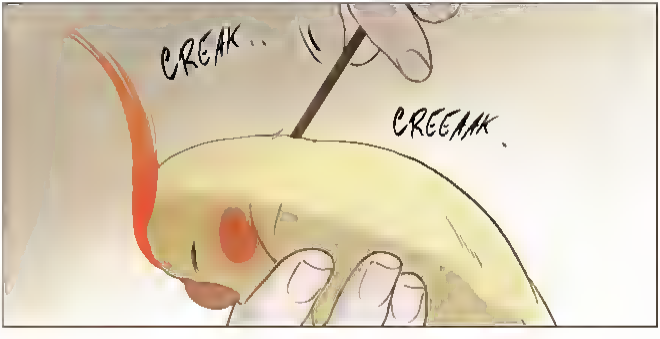
WE HAVE TO
PROTECT HIM.


CLICK
CRRGGHAK..
TAP.
STEP
STEP

STEP
:


WIND ME UP...
BLINK
BLINK
ARE YOU AWAKE?
MY BODY... FEELS SO HEAVY...

THAT'S STRANGE. IT'S NOT TIME TO WIND UP YOUR SPRING YET, THOUGH.
...I CAN'T GET UP.


CREAK..
CREEAAK.

TOTTER
TOTTER
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I SAID?

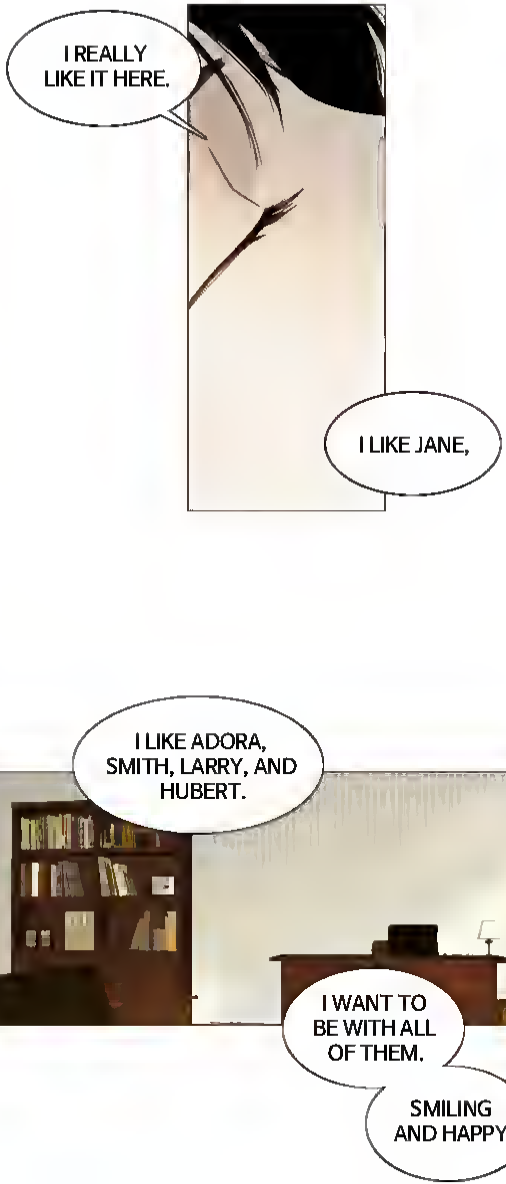
WHEN ARE
WE LEAVING?

PLOP
WHEW-
ROY.
YOU KNOW.

WILL THINGS REALLY CHANGE IF WE JUST LEAVE LIKE YOU SAID?

YOU WOULD PROBABLY STILL BE ANXIOUS JUST LIKE NOW.

DO YOU WANT THAT?
OF COURSE NOT.


I REALLY LIKE IT HERE.
I LIKE JANE,
I LIKE ADORA, SMITH, LARRY, AND HUBERT.
I WANT TO BE WITH ALL OF THEM.
SMILING AND HAPPY.

YOU WANT
THAT TOO, RIGHT ROY?
YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY
WITHOUT ANY ANXIETY.
I WANT TO.

THAT'S WHY
I DON'T WANT YOU
TO GIVE UP.

AREN'T
YOU SCARED?
WHAT IF I FAIL?

NO. I'M SURE THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE UP WITH CLAUDE.
IF YOU PUT IN EFFORT OVER TIME, CLAUDE WILL RECOGNIZE IT TOO.

WILL THE DAY COME WHEN WE CAN BE HAPPY WITHOUT ANY WORRIES?
OF COURSE!
THAT DAY WILL DEFINITELY COME.

Winter Woods

원 터 우 즈

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